

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSM-05 IO-13 SAM-01 DHA-02 ORM-02 AID-05

OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /096 W

----- 024965

R 180859Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3830

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 7816

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR IS EG

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER VISITS RAFAH AREA SETTLEMENTS

1. THE FOLLOWING EXCERPTS CONCERNING PRIME MINISTER RABIN'S NOV 17 VISIT TO ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS IN THE RAFAH AREA ARE TAKEN FROM THE GOVERNMENT PRESS BULLETIN. BEGIN TEXT: MR RABIN, WHOSE VISIT MARKED THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF YAMIT, STATED THAT ISRAEL WISHED FOR, AND WAS PREPARED FOR, ANY NEGOTIATION TO ACHIEVE A GENUINE PEACE WITH ITS NEIGHBORS--BUT THAT SUCH A PEACE COULD NOT BE ATTAINED WITHOUT DEFENSIBLE BORDERS.

2. PRESENTING THE PRIME MINISTER WITH THE KEY TO YAMIT, THE MINISTER OF HOUSING, MR AVRAHAM OFER, SAID THAT THE TOWN'S POPULATION WAS EXPECTED TO GROW DURING THE COMING YEAR FROM 200 TO 400 FAMILIES, AN THE ENTIRE REGION'S POPULATION WOULD, BY THE END OF THE NEXT YEAR, TOTAL ONE THOUSAND FAMILIES.

3. MEETING WITH NAHAL SETTLERS AT SUCOOT, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID INTER ALIA 'THIS REGION IS DOUBLY IMPORTANT-- FROM THE SECURITY AND THE AGRICULTURAL POINT OF VIEW. ITS CULTIVATION

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AND SETTLEMENT ARE OF UTMOST NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE. THERE IS

NO DOUBT THAT NATIONAL CONSENSUS DEMANDS THAT THIS REGION BE
A PART OF ISRAEL IN A PEACE TREATY.' THE RAFAH SALIENT, HE ADDED,
PROVIDED ENORMOUS OPPORTUNITIES FOR FUTURE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT,
AND FOR A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE OF ITS EXPORT POTENTIAL. END TEXT.
TOON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAND SETTLEMENT, AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, NATIONAL SECURITY, POPULATION GROWTH RATE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TELAV07816
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760430-0480
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761134/aaaabdal.tel
Line Count: 66
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: powellba
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 AUG 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 AUG 2004 by vandyklc>; APPROVED <23 NOV 2004 by powellba>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRIME MINISTER VISITS RAFAH AREA SETTLEMENTS
TAGS: PFOR, SOCI, EG, IS, (RABIN, YITZHAK)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006